ensure that infiltration is minimized and the violence levels in J&K remain under check.

There are no inputs to suggest that Pakistan has brought down the number of soldiers on its borders. Both India and Pakistan have agreed to respect Line of Control in J&K.

Treatment of common man in military hospitals

†914. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions regarding the treatment of common man in military hospitals in accident cases and in emergency on humanitarian ground;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such military hospitals in the country wherein this facility have been provided; and

(d) whether Government will provide this facility in the remaining military hospitals also?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per the Regulations for the Medical Services of the Armed Forces 1983, in an emergency, medical officers are required to attend to sick calls from any person, taking such subsequent action as may be necessary. Once the condition of the patient has stabilized and the patient is considered fit for transfer, then the person is referrred/transferred to the nearest Civil hospital having the necessary facilities.

(c) The Regulation is applicable to all military hospitals and medical establishments in the country.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

Development of Kaveri Engine by DRDO

915. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) what is the progress of development efforts by DRDO in regard to fighter aircraft engine KAVERI;

(b) whether the same has been subjected to high-altitude providing tests in Russian sites, and if so, the results thereof; and

(c) whether the DRDO is now looking for a technology partner from US to further develop KAVERI, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Currently, four engines are running on test bed at Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bangalore, while two engines are being manufactured.

Reliability and safety tests are being carried out to demonstrate compliance to the strictest standards in this direction. First flight over a limited envelope may take place in early 2007. Simultaneously, efforts are being made to improve thrust and reduce weight.

(b) One Prototype Engine and one Core Engine were tested at high altitude test facility of M/s Central Institute of Aviation Motors (CIAM), Russia.

The tests revealed that the engine would function satisfactorily in many aspects over the flight envelope of the Kaveri. Deficiencies noted are being corrected.

(c) While the engine development has matured to a significant extent, it has been decided to look for a technology partner to accelerate the pace of development.

With that view in mind, a request for proposal (RFP) was sent to various designated engine houses of the world. Offers received are being technically evaluated.

Development of medium combat Aircraft

916. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to make tie-ups to develop medium combat aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and